



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Customer Focus

David Miller, a landowner near St. Joseph, Louisiana, applied for and was accepted into the Wetlands Reserve Program. Mr. Miller has two tracts in WRP—one tract approximately 400 acres in size and another tract that totals about 300 acres.

“The Wetlands Reserve Program has been very helpful to me in converting marginal cropland back to productive wetlands,” explained Miller. “The two tracts that I enrolled in WRP belonged to my father and I was able to realize the true potential of the ‘heir’ property. This land is best suited for wetland habitat and WRP was perfectly suited for it.”

Planting bottomland hardwood seedlings and creating shallow water areas are the main wetland enhancement practices being applied on the Miller WRP tracts.

“Most of our shallow water areas and openings are three to four hundred feet long,” said Miller. “We feel that irregular, natural-looking water areas are the most attractive to waterfowl and other wildlife. The shallow water areas provide ideal resting and feeding areas for the birds.”

Louisiana Summary

Overview

Through the Wetlands Reserve Program, private landowners are restoring marginal croplands back to bottomland hardwood forested wetlands in Louisiana. Over the past ten years, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and participating landowners have been planting bottomland hardwood seedlings on all enrolled Wetlands Reserve Program easements.

Accomplishments

Louisiana leads the nation in acres enrolled in WRP. At the end of fiscal year 2001, three hundred seventy four WRP easements totaling 139,801 acres have been recorded. Two hundred ninety seven WRP easements have been restored—100,391 acres. Planting trees on the wetland sites has an added bonus. Healthy growing hardwood forests are highly effective at naturally sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and converting it to forest biomass (plants). Carbon sequestration reduces greenhouse effects caused by carbon dioxide gases in our atmosphere.

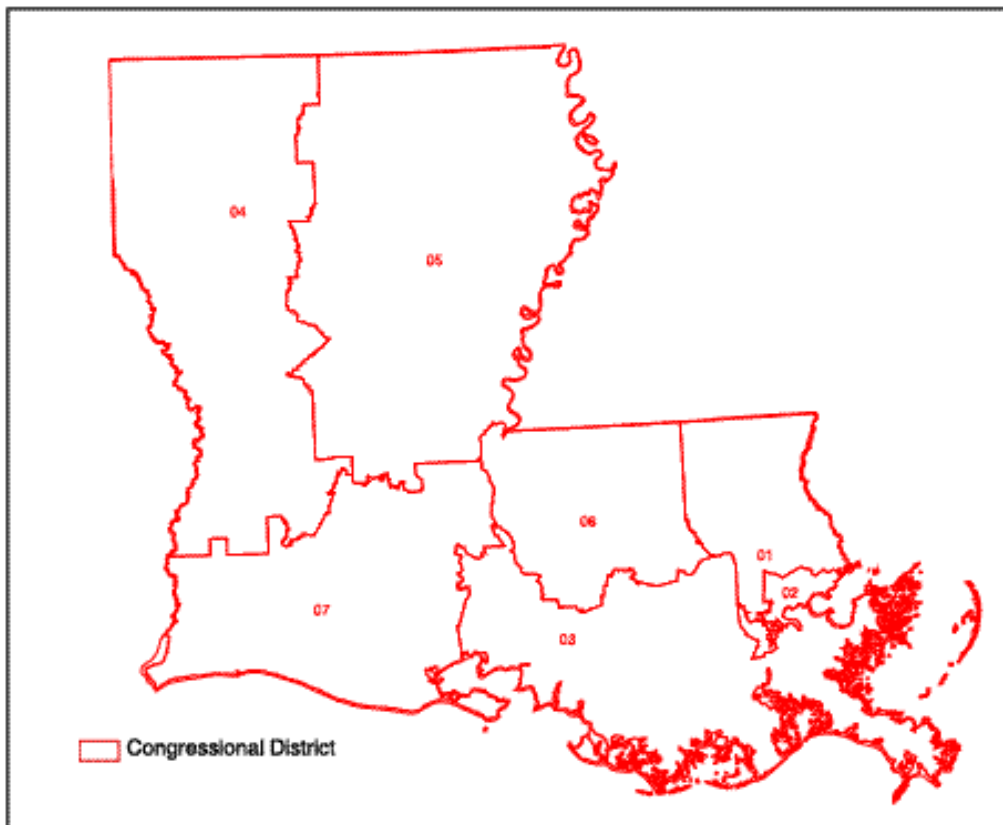
Outlook

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will need \$77,725,630 to adequately fund existing backlog of Wetlands Reserve Program conservation easement applications.

State Contacts

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Louisiana Wetlands Reserve Program



Louisiana Wetlands Reserve Dollars and Contracts

Fiscal Year 2001

Congressional Districts	Number of Contracts	Contract Acres	Contract Amounts
District 4	41	14,538	\$9,387,219
District 5	310	117,726	\$85,861,970
District 6	6	1,023	\$756,964
District 7	20	7,303	\$5,378,547
State Totals	377	140,590	\$101,384,700

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